CLIMATE PROGRAM OFFICE

Transition of Research Applications to Climate Services

Can the development of climate application products be leveraged into long-term benefits for society?

The Transition of Research Applications to Climate Services (TRACS) Program moves experimentally mature climate information from research mode into operational settings. The program's primary goal is to generate sustained delivery of useful climate information products and services to local, regional, national, and international decision and policy makers.

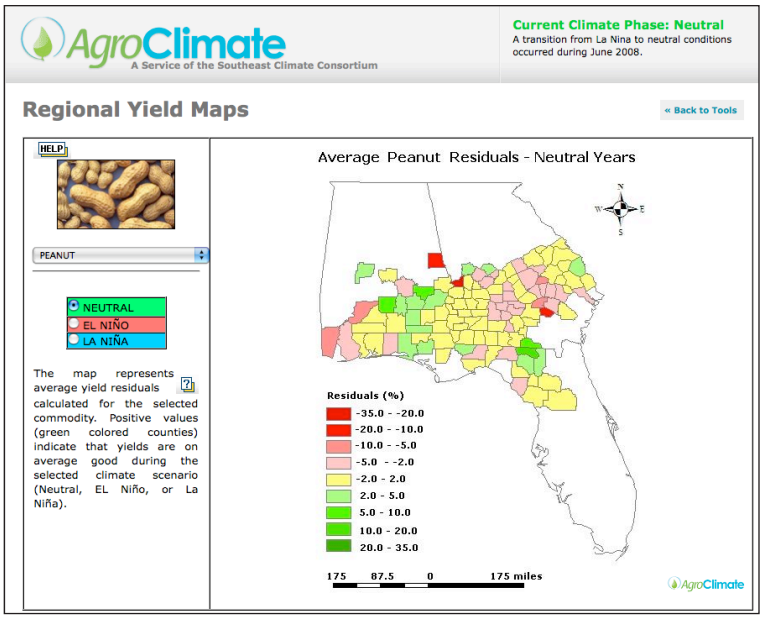
TRACS Objectives

- Transition experimentally mature climate tools to operations for public goods applications and improved risk management.
- Learn from partners which methods best complete the technology transition process for improved decision support.

Approaches

TRACS funds partnerships that work to implement the transition of experimentally developed and tested research applications into operational settings. Mature applications that provide consistent delivery of end-user-friendly information to support decision-making are targets of this program.

This program functions as a bridge to facilitate research transitions through partnerships with operational entities. TRACS is not intended to be a means of developing end-to-end research applications and is not intended to support initial contact between partners. Rather, it is designed to complement on-going partnerships and to transition applications that have already been developed and tested through other research initiatives.



One interactive AgroClimate tool allows users to view expected crop yield (for either peanut, cotton, or tomato) across parts of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida for each El Niño Southern Oscillation phase. This assists farmers in making important planting decisions at the start of each season.

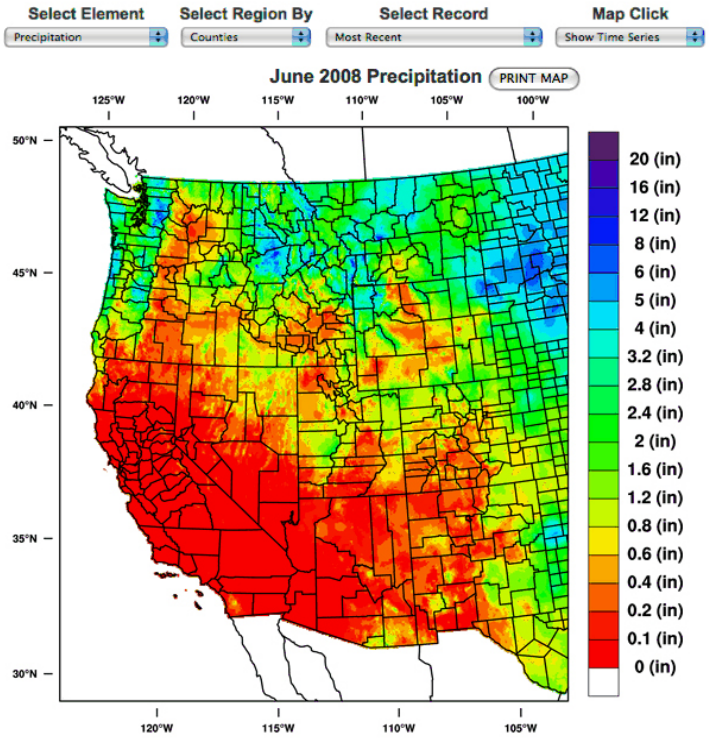
TRACS Highlights

AgroClimate

Researchers at the University of Florida are working to transition AgroClimate, a Web-based climate information system developed by the Southeast Climate Consortium Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments team, to operations. The AgroClimate Website, available online at www.AgClimate.org, is a one-stop shop decision support tool for resource managers in the Southeast. The Web-based tool presents resource management options and probable

Transition of Research Applications to Climate Services http://www.climate.noaa.gov/cpo_pa/nctp
Email: oar.cpo.tracs@noaa.gov

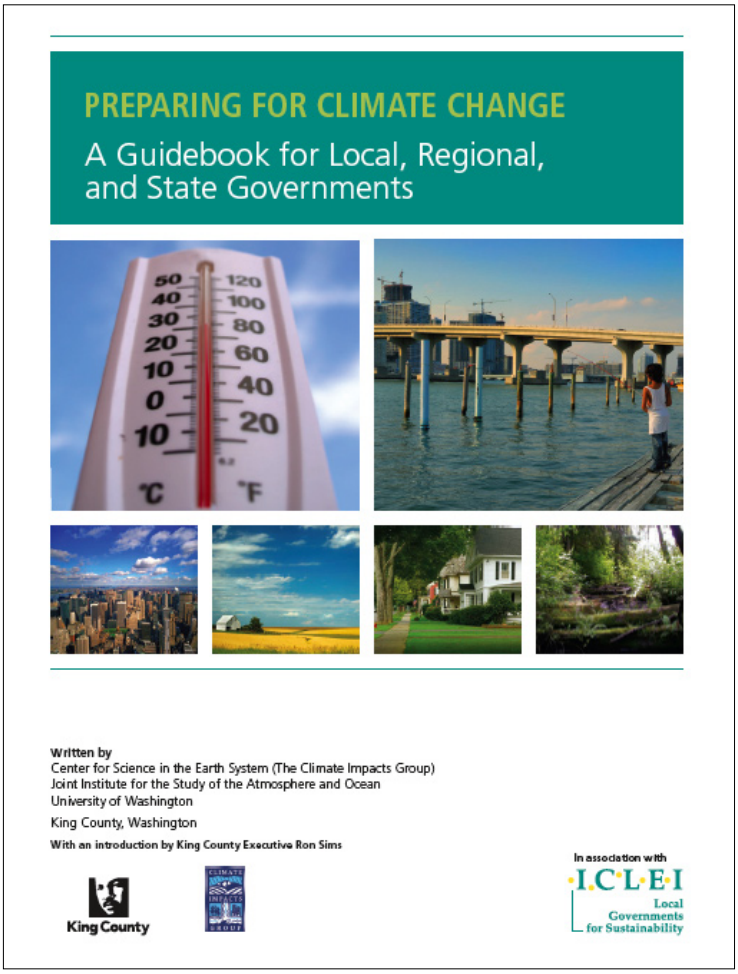
outcomes based on forecast climate conditions and crop simulation models. Users have access to historical and forecast climate data and crop yield information. TRACS funded the transition of this product to operations by providing support for necessary personnel and infrastructure. TRACS is also funding the development, implementation, and improvement of additional climate, crop yield, and forestry tools in an effort to meet user's operational needs.



WestMap's Climate Analysis and Mapping Toolbox provides image maps, graphs, and tabular data for the western U.S.

WestMap Climate Analysis & Mapping Toolbox

The WestMap site, offering easy-to-use climate mapping and data access tools, was originally supported through NOAA's Regional Integrated Science and Assessment program. Through TRACS, the site has been available to the public since January 2008. Users can access maps, graphs, and tabular climate data from 1895 through today. The site offers time-series measurements of precipitation plus minimum, maximum, and mean temperatures at a range of spatial scales across the western United States. Requests from stakeholders for fine-scale spatial climate time series for specific reporting regions led to the development of the WestMap site. The tool can be utilized for several areas of study and applications including adaptation to long-term climate change, economic value of climate forecasts, and natural hazards mitigation. The tool continues to be improved based on user needs.



The "Climate Change Adaptation Guidebook" is available for download at http://cses.washington.edu/cig/fpt/guidebook.shtml

Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments

Local Governments for Sustainability (known as ICLEI), the climate team of King County, Washington, and The Climate Impacts Group, a NOAA funded Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program Team, worked together to create a guidebook on preparing for and adapting to climate change. "Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments" is designed to help local, regional, and state governments prepare for climate change by recommending a detailed, easy-to-understand process based on familiar resources and tools. The guidebook is funded in part through TRACS. Additional support was contributed by the Sectoral Applications Research Program. As part of ICLEI's Climate Resilient Communities Program, over 250 copies of the document were distributed to cities, towns, and counties across the U.S. in January 2009.